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ALUMNIAGARA

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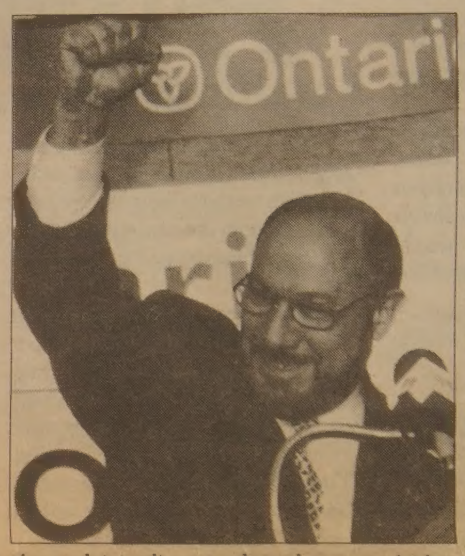
Niagara...The Next Century

MAJOR EXPANSION PROJECT ABOUT TO BEGIN

In the last edition of ALUMNIAGARA, the major expansion program at the college was outlined in some detail. Niagara College President John Saso says this almost $50-million project is one of the largest capital projects the Niagara Region has seen for some years.

To briefly revisit those plans, the College received a $32-million grant from the Ministry of Education and Training, acquired new property and retained Moffat Kinoshita Associates Inc. as project architects and planners. The ground breaking ceremonies are scheduled for sometime in the late Spring of 1995.

The site plans and first drawings are expected shortly. The new three-storey building will be a highly flexible structure to accommodate the evolving client needs and new learning methods required now and for some years into the future.



In addition to the new building, estimated at about $33.4-million, more than $10-million will be invested in renovating buildings at other Niagara College locations.

At the Welland Campus, a new Child Care Centre and a 200-bed student residence are already underway. The much-needed child care facility is being funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the $4-million student residence is being built and funded by private developers.

As the college enters into the age of the information highway, new fibre optics and digital technology is also being introduced to support existing and new programming and courses. This infrastructure project is being funded by a partnership agreement among the federal and provincial governments and the college. Other private agencies are expected to join in this arrangement as the project gets underway.

In order to leverage the value and impact of the government grants, the college has initiated a capital fund raising campaign. This campaign has the objective of raising $6-million over a five-year period. The Niagara College Foundation was established several years ago to develop and manage this campaign.

It is interesting to note that a number of Niagara College alumni have been encountered through this development activity. Although the capital campaign has not yet been

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Mary Petruzella helped thousands of students

By Gordana Pirker

With the many changes and new developments at Niagara College over the years, there stood a woman who some say was the "backbone of the college".

For the past 27 years Mary Petruzella has become a well-known, familiar face to both the staff and students at Niagara College.

But this quiet and modest lady, as known by her peers, is finally taking a much-deserved break - permanently.

Ms Petruzella officially retired in October after working in the Admissions Office for the past 27 years. She was one of the original staff hired by the college before it even had a building to live in.

Working from an office on East Main St. in Welland in 1967, Ms Petruzella started building her career with the college while the construction of Hennepin Hall was just starting.

These early beginnings would become the stepping stone to a long career at the college.

Prior to the introduction of the International Education office, Ms Petruzella would pick up students from the airport in Toronto and bring them back to Welland to help them find homes while they attended the college.

Sandy Cottrell, who worked with Mary for the past 10 years, said she was "here for the students".

"Mary is a very hard-working, dedicated employee, who is respected by all who know her," Ms Cottrell said. "She is a very private person and does not like to talk about herself - she just did her job...and she did it well."

But Ms Petruzella's hard work did not go unnoticed by her peers, who took time to honor her at the convocation ceremonies in October. She was presented with a hand blown vase as a gift and listened to President John Saso pay tribute to the many duties she performed throughout her years with the college.

Ms Petruzella was also honored by her peers two years ago with the first-ever Niagara College Award of Excellence.

Helene Moscato, President Saso's administrative assistant, said Ms Petruzella is well loved by all the employees at the college and will be missed.

"Everybody loves Mary, she is always there for you and never turns you down for anything - we can't say enough about her," she said.

True to form, on most nights staff and students could drive by Hennepin Hall as late as 11 p.m. and still see her car parked in the lot.

She did not work the standard nine-to-five office hours.

"It would not be surprising to find Mary at the office until midnight...working away. I would call sometimes to leave a message for her on her voice-mail but instead I would get her on the other line," recalls Ms Cottrell.

But this soft-spoken lady has not cut her ties with the college just yet. She is working with Larry Coté at the Niagara College Foundation Office.

"At the moment Mary is working with us on a volunteer basis for the Foundation," Mr. Coté said. "She has an excellent rapport with the students and is able to contact former students when needed."

Coté is well aware of the many things Ms Petruzella has done for students and staff at the college.

"It is definitely a pleasure to work along side Mary, she is delightful," he said.

Although no comment was available from Ms Petruzella herself, any student hearing her name can recall a time they were in need of her help and she was there.

"She is great - there should be more people like her; it makes life a little easier," said Willy Noiles, second year Journalism-Print student.

What ever Ms Petruzella chooses to do, her dedication to Niagara College will never be forgotten - she has built a strong foundation and smoothed the pathway for others to follow.

PARENTS & FRIENDS PLEASE TAKE NOTE

In some cases you may be receiving ALUMNIAGARA and other College mailings intended for your children or friends.

Please accept our apologies for the inconvenience, but the address shown is the last known location for these former Niagara College students.

Can we ask a favour of you on their behalf? Please forward this copy. Or better yet, please notify us of their current address. You can use the coupon found on page 11 of this publication or call **(905) 988-5211.**

Many thanks for your help. We appreciate your co-operation.

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Foundation/Alumni Office, Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology
P.O. Box 20162, Grantham Postal Outlet, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada L2M 7W7

Introducing . . . Martha Gleddie

Martha Gleddie is the friendly voice who answers your calls at the Alumni Association.

As a part-time employee at the Foundation, she is in charge of special events such as the Niagara College Invitational Golf Tournament and the Seafood and Wine Extravaganza. Those who have attended or helped with these events are sure to know her excellent work.

She started at the Foundation as a volunteer a few months ago and has since become a regular part-time employee at the Niagara College offices in the Foster Wheeler building in Niagara-on-the-Lake. However her work ethic is of the type that seems to be never-ending and she is always on call when help is needed.

Gleddie and her husband, Dr. John Gleddie, live in Niagara-on-the-Lake with their two children, Sarah and Heather. Over and above their volunteer work with the College Foundation, this family is well-known for their involvements in the community.

Around the college, Martha is regarded as an energetic and enthusiastic worker who contributes generously to the efforts of her fellow workers. She has met hundreds of alumni on the phone and has the remarkable capacity to remember the names and deal with their concerns.

One of her pet projects has been the official Diploma Frames. She has made arrangements for these to be available to hundreds of graduates.

Those who know of Gleddie's boundless energy think it might have something to do with her daily power walking exercise program. Residents of NOTL must be ever alert when walking or driving in the early morning hours.

If you have a matter of interest or concern about the Alumni Association, Gleddie welcomes the opportunity to be in touch with you. You can always be sure of a friendly and timely response. Call her at (905) 988-5211.

Jim Walters - a homegrown success

Many alumni may remember Jim Walters during his term as Student Administrative Council president (1979 -1980) as the man who brought roller skating and movies to lunch hours, and Max Webster to pub night.

Others probably remember him as a conscientious president and caring individual who worked hard for students and at succeeding in his studies.

By carrying these qualities past college, Walters has built a successful career in human resources.

Following his graduation from the Business Administration - Operations Management program in 1981, he joined John Deere Welland Works in the Industrial Engineering department as an engineering analyst.

John Deere offers products and services primarily in the agricultural equipment line. It also manufactures and markets industrial, lawn and grounds care equipment. An offshoot of the company, John Deere Finance Ltd., offers financing for their own and other business.

His next career move was to human resources as industrial relations administrator. He then spent two years at a John Deere company in Ottumwa, Iowa, working in its manufacturing development program. On his return to John Deere in Welland, Walters assumed the position of manager of Human Resources, and since 1991, has held the position of manager of Human Resources for John Deere Ltd. (Canada).

His portfolio as a national manager is varied, and includes compensation and benefit planning for all Canadian employees, organizational effectiveness, union relations, training and employee development, and ensuring John Deere meets all legislative requirements, such as pay equity.

As an executive for a company dealing in a competitive market, with the global market undergoing a cultural and organizational shift, the greatest challenge Walters has faced in his career "is helping to ensure that John Deere is doing everything it can to help our employees continue to provide us with a competitive advantage."

When asked what his greatest accomplishment has been, however, his answer is much more straight forward.

"My two sons!"

He is also proud to be part of a successful company with strong values and a continuing heritage.

Walters still lives in his hometown of Welland with his wife, fellow Niagara grad Josephine (Carbone) and two sons. He would like the opportunity to catch up with his fellow classmates and SAC members, and invites them to call him at his office at (905) 734-4501.

Satellites, software and systems

The diploma which Computer Engineering Technology grad Mike Kovacich earned at Niagara College in 1981 has been the cornerstone of the successful business he has run for the past 14 years.

After graduation, Kovacich accepted a position as product safety and lab manager with Volker Craig Ltd. in Waterloo, a company which designed and manufactured computer terminals and related products. But Kovtek Satellites, which Mike started on a part-time basis while still in college, was still in operation.

In 1983, he returned to Port Colborne to start concentrating on his own company in earnest. Although conceived primarily as a research and development vehicle, he now also retails satellite dishes, television and audio systems. He also works with others in the industry, helping them market their ideas and develop software applications. In the works now is a music application which will run in the Windows environment.

As a computer prodigy, one of the biggest hurdles he faced while running his own business was convincing others in the industry to take him seriously at a relatively young age.

"I also regret not having taken any business courses while at college. I had a very steep learning curve when it came to the actual mechanics of running my own business," he said.

Walters is proud his business has survived a tough economic period and come through intact.

"We're a little bruised, but we're still here, with a good reputation, and ready for the future," he said.

Married with five children, Walters and his family reside in Port Colborne. He invites present and past Computer Engineering students who would like some insight into the ups and downs of the business to write to him at Kovtek Satellites, 610 Elm St., Port Colborne, Ont. L3K 4P6.

Gizuk is a woman on the move

By Gordana Pirker

It's a step in a new direction and an opportunity for women in the future.

Nancy Gizuk, 33, a graduate of the Industrial Enginering Technician - Quality Control program at Niagara, came to visit students to share some of her experiences and advice.

After being laid-off from her job as a private investigator in Toronto, Gizuk spent time trying to figure out what she wanted to do next.

With the help of Heather Baiano from Welland's Canada Employment Centre, she made the decision to return to school.

Six months after upgrading her math skills at the college, Gizuk completed the math course with a 98.3 per cent average leading her to further career decisions.

"I hated math but I did well. And because my math was so high I went into the technology field," she said.

Despite her dislike of mathematics and formulae, she graduated with a 97.3 per cent average and landed a job with A. G. Simpson of Scarborough this past February.

As a Statistical Process Control (SPC) facilitator, first she trained operators at the company and now is the Statistical Co-ordinator.

A. G. Simpson is a Tier 1 automotive manufacturer supplier working directly with companies like Nissan, GM and the latest BMW.

Gizuk said her company is North American-based, but it is looking to expand globally by 1996.

Asked how she felt about working at a non-traditonal job, Gizuk said it was an adjustment she had to make.

"I am definitely a minority and at many of the meetings we have, I am the only female," she said.

But that hasn't made her intimidated or unsure of herself.

She said she has "upward aspirations" on where she wants to go.

Travelling and attending several seminars, Gizuk loves her job and encourages other women not to be afraid to try non-traditional jobs.

The best advice she gives to women looking to get into her field or any other career is to "not to be afraid to state your beliefs."

"Believe in yourself because the opposition is still tough out there...it is still a man's world. But get good at proving yourself and your beliefs," she said.

Gizuk lives in Richmond during the week and comes home to Welland on weekends.

What's on the schedule for this steel-strong woman? A trip to Mexico and another overseas to Germany's capital city of Bonn.

After all, it's all part of the job!

Jennifer Cass realizes her goal

Jennifer Cass had an idea when she graduated from Business Administration-Marketing Management, and it didn't take long for her to begin implementing it.

Immediately after graduating from Niagara College in 1986, she began her own publishing company in her hometown of Niagara Falls.

Today, two magazines are produced by her company: Pulse Niagara, an entertainment weekly, and Point Magazine, a monthly paper focusing on the arts.

Arts and entertainment were areas of interest for Cass while in college as well — during her term as Student Administrative Council Social Convener in 1985, she brought big-name performers like Gowan, Kim Mitchell and David Wilcox to campus pubs.

Running her own business has been a real learning experience for her.

"I've had to learn how to manage and motivate my staff — it's an integral part of doing business," she said. "You can't do everything yourself."

She hastens to add that her present staff is "really great."

Cass has established a high profile through her successful business career. In 1994 she was nominated for the Premier's Award, and just a few years ago she traveled to Czechoslovakia as part of a provincial trade program. The group's purpose was to aid in the development of a Czechoslovakian community college.

As the marketing entrepreneur representative, it was up to Jennifer to ensure that the business curriculum for the new college reflected western needs.

There are many people from her years at Niagara College that she would like to become re-acquainted with. "Please contact me at Pulse Niagara, (905) 374-3232, as I would love to hear from any of my old friends and classmates."

1994 College Retirees

Vince Audibert
Sylvia Bagley
John Birney
Felix Bussman
Gordon Chen
Elizabeth Christensen
Albert Costello
Dorothy Doyle
Gordon Goulty
Goldie Hill
Barbara Hiller
John Jocsak
Robert Johnston
Elvira Lucas
Ralph Mancuso
Ivar Norén
Donald Pearson
Mary Petruzella
Glenn Pevere
Eleanor Snider
George Watson
John Yates
Robert Young

A Salute to our Founding Members ...

Carmine Angi	'83	Lyn Russo	'71	Gerald Ruch	'70
Robert Beres	'82	Harry Popiluk*	'70	Michael Stuppiello	'83
Richard Beyer	'81	Dave Rasmussen	'81	Carla Weller	'92
Debbie Foster	'76				

** President, Niagara College Alumni Association*

We've come a long way!

It's big, it's new and some of its areas are rowdy, while others are quiet and restful.

It's After Hours - the student centre at Niagara College, and it offers students and alumni a place to hold meetings, parties or to just sit and absorb the ambiance of college life.

Built in 1991 and recently renovated, the building was totally financed by student fees. The Student Administrative Council (SAC) is housed inside and it administers and finances many of the events which take place there.

Dave Rapelje, student centre manager, is attempting to meet as many needs of a diversified student population as possible.

"Although the After Hours bar is located inside the student centre, this is much more than just a bar," he said. "This centre is owned by the students and we want to represent all of their interests."

He must be doing something right – between 800 and 1,000 students walk through the door every day.

As an alumnus (Law and Security Administration, '87), Rapelje has a good handle on what students want to see in their centre.

"We've tried to make the entire centre fun for the students," he said "For instance, the food area is called the Greasy Spoon, and we've modeled it after a deli-style diner. The bar is called The Fridge, and to follow that theme, we've hung several old-fashioned fridges over the bar."

That's right, bar. Niagara College now sells liquor on campus from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and that can be complicated when about 400 of Niagara's students are under the legal drinking age. But Rapelje is aware of the risks involved and a procedure is in place to reduce them as much as possible.

A doorman is on duty during the hours alcohol is available and he checks ID for everyone entering. Anyone underage is given a hospital-style wristband to wear which can only be removed by cutting it off. When purchasing alcohol, the buyer is checked by the server to ensure he or she is not wearing a wristband. As well, bar staff regularly circulate throughout the room, checking to see that anyone drinking alcohol at tables or the stand-up bars is not wearing a wristband.

"Sometimes students will try to fool us by hiding the band under their sleeves or removing them on their own, but we know their tricks," says Rapelje.

"We're trying to get quality entertainment acts that will appeal to everyone.

The Fridge area is large and loud. It contains pool tables, video games, tables, stand-up bars, a long, sit-down bar, booths for students who are adept at working and studying despite the noise, and The Greasy Spoon dining area.

A stage area with removable brass railings doubles as a stage and a dance floor, and is lighted by a 12-fixture light show donated by the Broadcasting – Radio, Television and Film program. Athletic banners won by college teams over the years hang from the ceiling, and the whole atmosphere is one of fun and comfort.

While The Fridge is a popular spot for student social activities on campus, Rapelje is concentrating on making them more than just rock 'n roll parties. Tuesday and Thursday noon hours feature everything from reggae to comedy.

"We're trying to get quality entertainment acts that will appeal to everyone," he said "One of our most popular events was a tribute to Garth Brooks, which featured a Garth look-alike. The resemblance was uncanny. Rawlins Cross, a Celtic group, also went over well."

Pub nights are still a mainstay on campus, but after hours activities include much more.

"Some programs are holding their Christmas parties here, and we even held a Christmas party for students and their children," said Rapelje, who donned the Santa Clause outfit.

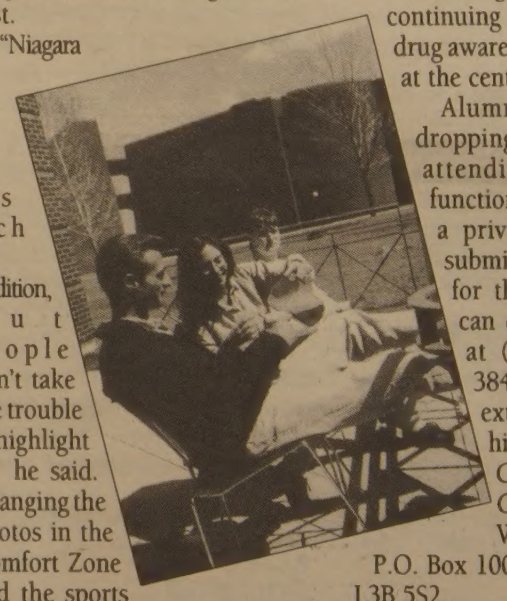
The second Monday of each month is "Calling All Writers" night. It's an open mike format and is open to anyone who loves the written word and wants to share their creations with others. Rapelje encourages alumni to consider the student centre for their next function.

"We can handle anything here from family reunions to stag and does. Catering services and bar services are available at very reasonable prices," he said.

Students looking for peace and quiet usually end up in The Comfort Zone. This soundproofed room, furnished with soft, slouchy couches and chairs, offers students a place to work or relax in relative quiet. The room is decorated in soft grays and burgundies and the walls are covered with photos of Niagara sports teams and SAC members from years gone by.

Rapelje believes it's very important to give Niagara's latest students a sense of what has happened at the college in the past.

"Niagara is rich in tradition, but people don't take the trouble to highlight it," he said. "Hanging the photos in the Comfort Zone and the sports banners in The Fridge is our way of giving students a sense of history and belonging. We want them to be proud of their school."



The Wall of Fame is the newest addition to the student centre. It fits in well with his respect for tradition. To be located in the After Hours complex, the wall will feature photos and a short history of people who have gone beyond the call of duty and touched the lives of students at the College.

Rapelje feels Fred Bassi, the first inductee, is the perfect illustration of the purpose behind the Wall of Fame. Induction occurs every Christmas and faculty, support staff and students can be nominated. It is Dave's hope that alumni will become involved with the Wall of Fame by submitting their nominations.

Clubs and other campus groups often utilize the student centre conference room. Located just off The Comfort Zone, plans are underway to soundproof that room also. Down the road, Dave would like to see it become a multi-media room, with computers, software, a printer, Internet access and other resources.

He is very clear on his plans for the future of the student centre.

"We want to continue improving and growing. Accommodating student needs is our number one priority," he said.

Next on the list is marketing the centre to outside groups and alumni is at the top of the list.

"Student fees, past and present, paid for this centre, and everyone should have the opportunity to use it," he said.

Also high on the list is continuing the alcohol and drug awareness program run at the centre.

Alumni interested in dropping by the centre, attending any of its functions, reserving it for a private function, or submitting nominations for the Wall of Fame can call Dave Rapelje at (905) 735-2211, 384-9760, 382-2383 ext. 7660, or write to him at the Student Centre, Niagara College, 300 Woodlawn Rd., P.O. Box 1005, Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2.

He wants to hear from you!

Many services planned for members of Alumni Association

This year, the College has responded to the request for more resources to help advance the development of the Alumni Association.

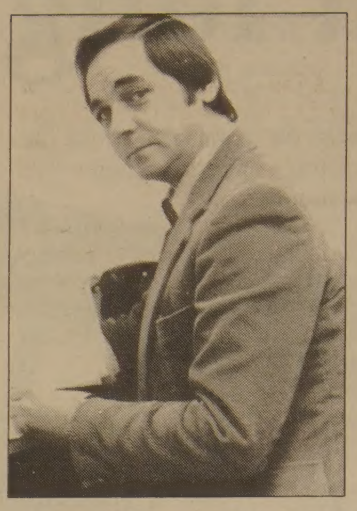
Larry Coté, a professor of business, has been seconded to the Niagara College Foundation to work on behalf of the Alumni Association and other activities associated with that division of the College. Coté joins Martha Gleddie, a part-time employee with the Foundation.

Among the many tasks associated with the alumni advancement activities is the development of the computer data base. There are more than 25,000 graduates, and keeping track of this number of people is a critical priority and a challenging activity.

Concurrent with this activity, staff are investigating services and programs which will benefit members of the Alumni Association.

Some possible programs might be a career networking service, group insurance programs, auto club membership, retail discount cards, long distance discount calling cards, and preferred membership in other programs of interest to Alumni.

This year, for the first time, an Alumni Membership Card was issued to all graduates at the convocation exercises. Plans are being made to issue these cards to all registered members of the Association in due course. This card is intended to help remind graduates to keep their Alumni Association advised of address and other noteworthy changes in their lives.



ALUMNIAGARA is the major communications vehicle among the Alumni, former classmates and their alma mater. An increasing number of graduates are recognizing the importance and value of this contact with their former classmates and the College. In this issue, a new service is being introduced in the Calling All Cards section.

Those who are interested in making use of this low cost service in the future are invited to call the Association offices at (905) 988-5211.

Also in the planning stages is the formation of Alumni Association chapters in regions where there is a sufficient number of graduates to support such an organization.

It appears that there are sufficient numbers in the Niagara, Hamilton, Southwestern Ontario and Toronto regions. Coté is eager to be in touch with graduates in these areas who would be interested in helping with such development plans.

If you know of the whereabouts of other grads or have comments or suggestions which might help advance the value of your Alumni Association, you are invited to contact the office staff. They will be glad to hear from you.

Alumni help in Association long-term planning

A number of alumni met at Niagara College in October to consider ways and means to advance the Alumni Association and to improve services and benefits for graduates.

Larry Coté, a professor of business, seconded to the task of alumni advancement, arranged the meeting to receive direct input from graduates on items of interest to former students.

College President John Saso and Larry Naftulin, CEO of the Niagara College Foundation, spoke to the graduates about the new directions in store for the college.

The president noted a number of Niagara's graduates are now associated with the college in a variety of capacities. He encouraged them to become actively involved in their Alumni Association and invite their former classmates and friends to do the same.

Mike Somerville, a graduate of the college and Director of Alumni Advancement at Brock University, also spoke to the group about services and benefits an alumni association can provide.

Following the meeting, graduates were organized into small groups to provide their views and wishes for the association. The results of the group discussions were reported in the more informal setting of the After Hours student centre.

In order to develop some of these plans, the association is in need of volunteers to help with various activities.

One of the priorities is to maintain the integrity of the data base information. The accuracy of this information is crucial to the success of the organization.

If you can help with a bit of time and expertise, please contact Larry Coté or Martha Gleddie at (905)988-5211.

The Great Canadian Seafood and Wine Extravaganza

The Seventh Annual Niagara College Great Canadian Seafood and Wine Extravaganza will take place Friday, April 21 at the Queen Victoria Park Restaurant in Niagara Falls Ontario. Last year's event was a sell-out success.

"This has become a widely known and extremely popular event. We always end up with a long waiting list of people from year to year. There are early indications already that this will be a sell out again this year," said Martha Gleddie, special events co-ordinator.

The dinner features a vast array of seafood delights, enough to challenge even the heartiest of seafood lovers. Complimenting the dinner is a selection of wines to tempt the connoisseur and a dessert table to add just a touch of decadence to the evening.

Order your tickets early for this popular event by calling the Foundation Office, (905) 988-5211.

The Niagara Network

Anne Marie Helbach (Glode) - Commercial Stenographic '70
"Since 1970 my four children have grown and left home. Llyana, my youngest attended NC 91-93. Seems like yesterday when I was a hostess for the official opening ceremonies at the St. Catharines campus. Wonder where all our teachers are now?"

John McIntosh - Business Administration-Operations Management '76
John is a senior buyer with John Deere in Welland. He has been a member of the Advisory Committee for his program for some years and in that role has mentored many students during that time.

Joe Minicucci - Graphic Arts '79
Joe is the president of his own advertising agency - Minicucci & Associates Advertising Inc. He was recently appointed to the Advisory Committee for Business programs at Niagara. Joe looks forward to hearing from all his friends at the College.

Frank and Teena (Doherty) Albanese - General Business '79
Frank and Teena live in Niagara Falls. Frank works as a chemical operator at Lubrizol of Canada and Teena works part-time at Zellers. Frank and Teena have been married for 12 years and they have two children; Anthony is seven and Christopher is two. Friends may call Frank and Teena at (905) 357-1384.

Dinah Wray (Kalins) - Secretarial '81
Dinah worked for a ship repair firm, a horse ranch and commercial design firm. Now married to a military man and at home with their three children. "Hey Pauline Hoogenboom, where are you?"

Diane Young - Human Relations '81
Diane lives in St. Catharines and works for Laubach Literacy, Canada, as national co-ordinator for the Workplace Skills Training program. She previously worked with the John Howard Society.

Kevan Reichelt - Computer Programmer '85
Kevan lives in Welland with wife Dorie Ellen and three year-old son Alexander. He is presently working at Foster Wheeler as a data processing supervisor/systems programmer. Kevan recently published a California-based trade magazine called Bits & Bytes.

Peter Lewis - Hotel & Restaurant Administration '84
Peter now lives in Hamilton with his wife Laurie and four year-old daughter Megan. He operates his own business T.L.H. Cleaning which provides janitorial services for commercial and residential clients. Peter invites Alumni to contact him in Hamilton and wishes "happy 10 years to all '84 grads."

Derek Lacey
alias Sometimes Still Wrecked
P.O Box 4363
Rome, N. Y. 13440
(315) 339-1481
"Hi Ya Doin'?" Looking for members of "The Press Club" and "The Kids House" — Graduating and Near Graduating Journalism-Print Class of '85. It's been a long 10 years and it would be nice to hear from you! Hope you all are well and see this. Give a call or drop a note.

Mary Ellen Foster (Garvey) - ECE '84
Mary Ellen is pursuing her career as a Registered Nurse with Care West. She is married and caring for two children; Katie, age four, and Neil who is one year old. She wants her friends to know about her and would like to hear from classmates at her home in Calgary by phoning (403) 257-2710.

Joyce Karau (VanHuizen) - Library Technician '86
Joyce and her Husband Dan were posted to Trenton after eight years in Winnipeg. They were married in the fall of '86 and have two children; Mark is four and Elizabeth is two. "Sonya, I don't have your address! Call me at (613) 392-3996."

Steven Shaw - Hotel & Restaurant Administration '86
"Attention all '86 Hotel & Resturant Admin grads! Our 10th anniversary is coming up. It would be great to have a reunion. Send a brief note as to what you have been doing over the past 10 years. If you know of other grads, please send in their addresses to the Alumni Association. Regards to all."

David Papetti - Electrical Engineering Technician - '88
David lives in Windsor and works at Valiant Machine and Tool as a controls electrician and apprentice industrial electrician. He would be happy to hear from his college friends at (519) 252-1457.

Jean Pizzah (Klenke) - ECE '89
"Hello to all my fellow ECE's - especially Kimberley! I am employed by a nursery in London as centre supervisor. I'd love to hear from some of my old 'classmates'. Take care!"

Natalie Stanczyk (Calutto) - Marketing '89
Natalie is the administrator for Cavendish Manor Retirement Living in Niagara Falls. She and her husband live in Grand Island, N. Y. She is in contact with a few of her former classmates and would be interested in hearing from some others.

Brenda Weaver - Social Service Worker '90
Brenda worked as a caseworker with Regional Niagara Social Services. She moved recently with her husband to St. John, Indiana, USA and is seeking employment in that state. "All the best to faculty, staff and students."

Patricia J. Baran - Broadcasting - Radio Television & Film '90
Since graduating, Patricia spent three years in Timmins doing morning news and has since relocated to another radio station in North Bay doing the on-air news.

Jason Austen - Marketing '92
Jason recently contacted the Alumni staff from his offices in Mississauga where he is Ontario sales representative for Harding Carpets. He is looking forward to getting together with his former classmates and other alumni in the Toronto area.

Connie Dykstra (O'Hagan) - Medical Transcriptionist '92
"I am working with a family doctor in Caledonia and have been there two years. My husband and I are moving to our first home this summer and we have a puppy on the way. Almost a Rockwell painting! Special hello to Kelly LeBlanc."

David Seeley - Ambulance and Emergency Care '93
David has recently started working for Hanover & District Ambulance Service. He and his wife Betty just returned from a 10-month stay in Texas, where she worked as a RN.

Glenda McGillivary - Nursing '93
"Christine (Polenko) Daignault - Nursing '93 - Please drop me a line. Let me know how you are doing. Are you still in Alberta?"

FORWARD YOUR NEW ADDRESS

If You've Recently Moved -

Canada Post has forwarded this issue of ALUMNIAGARA to you — but they are unable to give us your new address. To notify the College of your new address and ensure future communications, please call the Alumni Office or return the "Lost Alumni" coupon on pg. 11.

Diploma is just the beginning

Advanced training is critical today for starting a career or keeping up with change, and a growing number of people who already hold post-secondary credits, diplomas or degrees look to community colleges for advanced training in specialized areas.

Advanced Studies at Niagara College is part of a new General Education and Advanced Studies division. It consists of post-basic certificates/diplomas across the post-secondary area. Up-to-date, practical, advanced training is provided which is accessible, flexible and quick.

The courses are organized into modules which make it possible to begin classes in January, May or September.

Post-diploma or post-basic certificates are available to students who already have diplomas or degrees or whose life and work experience include significant skills and professional accomplishment which can be assessed via Prior Learning Assessment (PLA).

The PLA process recognizes the studies you've already completed at Niagara College and elsewhere and pays attention to the skills you've picked up along the way in your work and life experience by giving credit for them.

Post-diploma programs scheduled to run in 1995 include:

- ***Environmental Management*** which is designed to provide a concentrated core of skills required to implement and manage a wide range of environmental initiatives in business, government and institutions.
- ***International Trade*** concentrates on trade relationships and activities between North America and other world markets.
- ***Public Relations*** is a one-year program developed by Niagara College and the Canadian Public Relation Society - Hamilton Branch to provide a focused and directed curriculum on the practical applications of public relations.

Others to run pending Ministry approval include:

- Business Enterprise Management
- Cultural Resource Management
- Interactive Multi-media Technician
- Library Computer Specialist
- Network Administrator

"A variety of post-diploma programs are being offered throughout the year and the list of offerings keeps growing and changing to meet the demands of a shifting work environment," said Nancy Cain, director of General Education and Advanced Studies division.

If you'd like more information or to share your ideas for other post-diploma programs, please contact the Centre for Advanced Studies, (905) 735-2211, ext. 7509.

First time ever

Fall convocation held in October

A Fall Convocation was held for the first time in Niagara College's history on Friday, Oct. 14 in the auditorium of Welland Centennial Secondary School.

About 360 graduates from Allied Health, Nursing Studies, Technology and Continuing Education received their diplomas at the ceremony.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Betty Ann Chandler, a professor in the Nursing Studies division, a Niagara College graduate and president of the Niagara chapter of the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario.

Pipers Terry Dyson and Allen Spencer led graduates and dignitaries into the auditorium and diplomas were presented to the graduates by President John Saso and Rick Bassett, chair of Niagara College's Board of Governors.

Highlights of the evening included the presentation of the 1994 Governor General's Medal to the graduate with the highest academic standing: Marlene Friedlein of Port Colborne, a graduate of the Computer Programmer program.

A standing ovation greeted Mary Petruzella as she received special recognition from President Saso. Petruzella was hired by the College prior to its opening and has retired after 27 years of service.

Immediately following the ceremony, graduates attended a reception held in the After Hours student centre.

The Marketing and Communications department videotaped the proceedings using the College's mobile television van with tapes available to graduates.

Phonathon funds help students

Over the last two years, the Phonathon activity has raised more than $5,000 to help boost the funds available to students in need of financial aid to complete their studies at Niagara College.

The Phonathon is an annual telemarketing activity organized by the Alumni Association by recruiting volunteer canvassers who phone former students to solicit their charitable contributions.

The volunteers, many of whom are recruited from the Alumni ranks, are treated to a pauper's lunch and healthy refreshments while they complete their task of making hundreds of phone calls throughout the evening hours. The volunteers report that many of the former graduates are very interested in the activity and contribute willingly. In some cases, these parties to the conversation enjoy sharing 'stories' about their experiences way back when.

As the College is really a microcosm of the wider community, many students are in desparate need of financial assistance. Ultimately, these funds are a worthwhile investment in the future as those students who are temporarily in need become another of the productive graduates for which Niagara is well known.

Thanks to all those Alumni who welcomed our volunteer callers so hospitably. If by chance this phone call may have intruded on some of our Alumni, please accept our apologies for this inconvenience.

A special thanks to the Phonathon '94 Volunteers

Mary Petruzella
Barbara Coté
Martha Gleddie
Eileen Doolittle
Marianne Best
Susan DenBesten
Lisa Pierosara
Connie Bering
Jennifer Cass
Angie Hiller
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Mike Guzda
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Calling all Cards

Beginning with this issue, a new service is being introduced for alumni to advise fellow graduates of their whereabouts in the Calling All Cards section of ALUMNIAGARA.

This feature identifies only a few of the alumni who have been in close association with the alumni office over the last few months.

If you would like to use this service, please submit your calling card to the Alumni Office. In future editions, the fee for this service is only $10 per card per issue. Please forward cheques payable to the Alumni Association. Cards will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis. Cards received over and above space allocated to this section will be considered for future editions.

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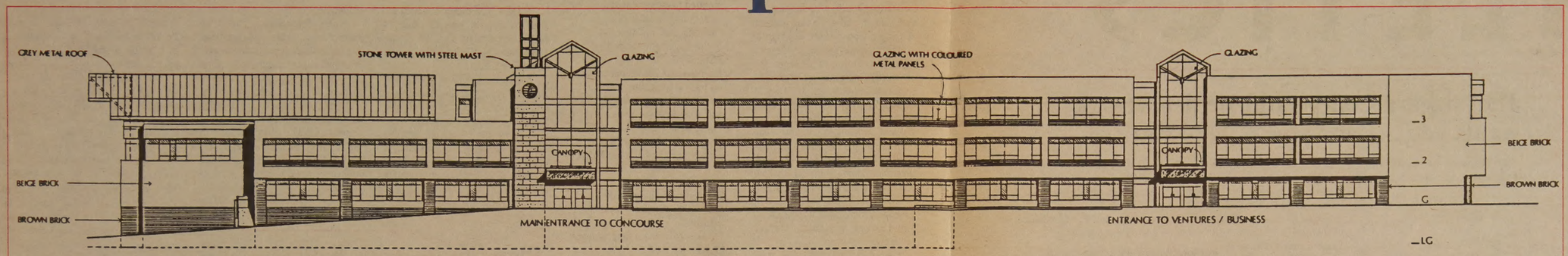
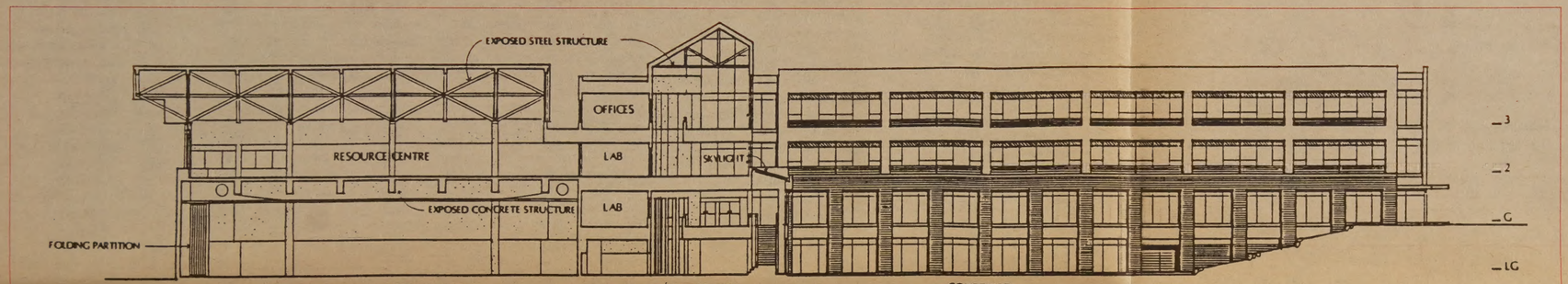
A Glimpse of the Future



West Elevation

New Building — Elevation Drawings — Niagara College

Produced and supplied by:
Moffat Kinoshita Associates Incorporated, Architects and Planners



North-South Section

Niagara ... the next century

Continued from page 1

officially launched, Lawrence Naftulin, CEO of the Foundation says "we have received early indications of positive support from individuals and organizations in the communities Niagara serves. We are very encouraged."

Many Regional officials and residents view Niagara College as a critical linchpin in the recovery and development of the entire Niagara Region. Niagara was established in 1967 and since that time has served the education and training needs for thousands of residents and organizations in its catchment area.

President Saso says the request for funding from both the usual government sources and now the private sector is progressing well.

"We owe a great debt of gratitude to the graduates and staff of Niagara who have forged such a great reputation for the college," he said. "As a result of this record of excellence, our task of raising the much needed dollars from the private sector has been made easier. My hat is off to all of them."

A view from the new campus

The new campus is a highly visible site located near the intersection of the QEW and the Glendale Ave. exit to St. Catharines and Niagara-on-the-Lake. Those most familiar with the Niagara area can likely visualize the site with reference to the White Oaks Inn & Fitness Centre and the Foster-Wheeler offices located at this same intersection.

The new site has many advantages such as the convenience of access from all areas within and outside the Niagara Region, the tremendous aesthetic opportunities, and raising even higher the image of the College.

As many would know, the topography of the Niagara Peninsula rises from the shores of Lake Ontario south to the shores of Lake Erie. The slope from the shores of Lake Ontario is a gentle rise for several kilometres until it reaches the abrupt incline of the craggy-faced Niagara escarpment.

The new fifty acre campus is nestled just under the cliff of the escarpment on a natural plateau above the waters of Lake Ontario.

This acreag, provides a unique opportunity to develop the buildings and the landscape into one of the most aesthetically pleasing campus settings in the College system.

Regardless of the direction one will look from this new campus, the view is virtually unobstructed and visually pleasing. To the north, one will overlook the landscape as it slopes to the shores of Lake Ontario. On most days, you will be able to see across the Lake and clearly define the unmistakable skyline of the City of Toronto.

The view is equally remarkable in other directions as well. As one looks to the south, well tended vineyards criss-cross the sitelines between the campus and the base of the escarpment. This steeply sloped phenomenon of nature is densely covered by the greenery of the mature forests. In winter the outlines of these temporarily barren trees are highlighted against the white covering of snow.

Because of the unique topography, people at this new campus will almost always be in the warmth of sunshine. The view to the east is unobstructed as the sun rises and to the west the sun sets into the horizon beyond St. Catharines.

These new facilities, some recent additions and the renovations to some of the existing facilities will make all who are associated with the Niagara area and Niagara College proud.

New Child Care Centre to open in 1995

The Welland Campus skyline will be changing drastically in 1995.

Part of the change is the new Child Care Centre which will mean space for 85 children at the centre and offer accessibility to its users.

Ground breaking for the new centre is scheduled for Jan. 25, 1995. The Centre will be approximately 8,900 square feet and be located near the wooded lot west of Hennepin Hall and south of parking lot A. Designed by the Hamilton-based architectural firm Moffat Kinoshita Inc., the new Centre will offer a comfortable and well-designed setting with easy access and designated parking spaces to ensure a safe child drop-off area away from traffic.

"The new centre will provide a better environment for the children and for our students and staff," said Hans van der Slagt, Vice-president, Administration. "This is a terrific opportunity to serve our clients better."

Also slated to be housed in the new Centre is Welland Preschool Services, which is under the umbrella of the Welland District Association for Community Living. Welland Preschool Services is now located adjacent to the existing child care centre.

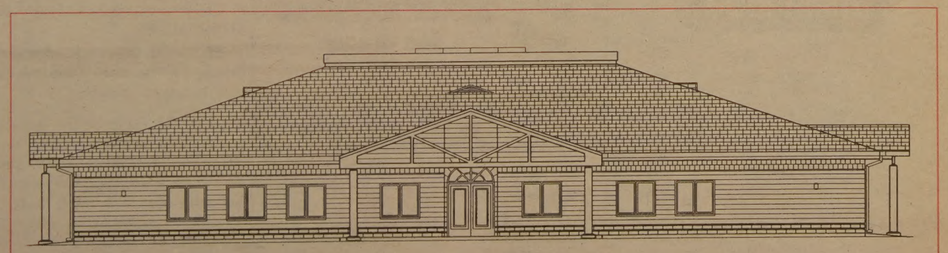
A proposal for capital funding from the Ministry of Community and Social Services put the wheels in motion for a new centre, according to Sandy Fox, Manager of Ancillary Services. Expansion plans also recommended the present centre be replaced with a centre in a more visible and accessible location. With spaces for only 72 children in the existing centre, the 26-year-old structure was in constant need of repair and its location north of the Mackenzie Building put it close to a roadway running through the campus.

The Child Care Centre serves as a laboratory setting for students of the Early Childhood Education program.

"This is a demonstration lab and our community looks to us for guidance about how a child care centre should be operating," said Mr. van der Slagt.

Funding for the new Centre is through the Jobs Ontario program.

The announcement of the Centre's construction was welcome news to the Niagara College community. More than half the children enrolled at the Centre have parents attending or employed by the college.



Niagara College Child Care Facility

Produced and supplied by:
Moffat Kinoshita Associates Incorporated
Architects and Planners

Joint project means first residence in Welland

by Richard Roik, Tribune staff writer, reprinted with permission

Niagara College has broken new ground in a bid to provide its students with a residence.

About two dozen College officials, students and politicians braved a chilly drizzle on Dec. 9 for a sod, and mud, turning ceremony at the residence's site off First Avenue in Welland.

"We're just delighted to be in the ground," said College president John Saso.

"This is a very important project for the college," he added, "because more of our students are coming from outside the peninsula.

"Especially for first-year students leaving home for the first time, it's important for them to have a safe environment conducive to study."

The 200-bed residence is a joint development project among the Armenti Brothers Contractors/ Developers of Port Colborne, Russell Associates Inc. of Fonthil and the College.

"I've been involved in joint ventures before, but not of this size," architect Ed Russell said of the project reported to cost an estimated $4.5-million.

"The economic trade-off makes for a sound return for the students, the college and our firm," Mr. Russell said.

The project was launched by the college's call for proposals from private developers, but it's being entirely financed and managed by the developers.

The lands are being leased from the college, which will obtain outright ownership of the residence in 30 years.

"We expect it to attract new students as well as add to the quality of student life on campus," said Administration Vice-President Hans van der Slagt.

The residence has been designed as a two-storey building divided into three so-called 'houses' or units.

The first house of about 60 beds is expected to be ready by June. That will allow it to house athletes over the summer — particularly rowers who compete at the South Niagara Rowing Club.

College officials say the residence will also open more opportunities in summer programming aimed at the short-stay needs of businesses and industries.

Photo credit:
The Office of Edward D. Russell, Architect Inc. — Armenti Brothers Contractors/Developers.

ATHLETICS

Pumping up the volume

The varsity sports teams at Niagara College are pumping up the volume.

The 1994-95 season could be, collectively, the most successful yet for the Niagara Knights five major varsity teams.

The men's volleyball team, playing in Division I, was ranked as high as ninth in the country in late November. It has since slipped out of the rankings but headed into the Christmas break with a 5-2 record, good enough for second spot in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association's (OCAA) West division.

"With the talent we brought in, including McMaster transfer Blair Cudmore and Windsor University transfer John Lierman, combined with some very good returning players, we could challenge for the College's first-ever OCAA title," said Ray Sarkis, head coach.

"As far as the rankings are concerned, it's nice to be recognized for your accomplishments, but I'm not too worried about falling out of them - I'll worry more about where we are in March."

For the first time in eight years, Niagara College is sporting a women's basketball team, and so far Head Coach Todd Stevens is pleased with the success of the team.

"Heading into Christmas, we were 4-2 and could have very easily been 5-1," he said. "I'm very pleased with our progress so far, especially considering we're in Division I and we're starting from scratch."

Peter Rylander, co-ordinator of Athletics, said the College was looking to increase the varsity sports available to women.

"We've been thinking about bringing back women's basketball for a couple of years now," he said. "But we've also added women's indoor soccer, so we're looking at about 30 more varsity women athletes."

Hockey fans will no longer see Fred Bassi pacing behind the Niagara bench as he has he has made the decision to end his college coaching days after 24 years.

Long-time assistant and former team captain Jim Beattie is now at the helm and has the team off to a 3-4-1 start after losing three of their first four games.

There is a new look to the men's basketball team as well as first-year coach Randy Conlon brings 11 freshmen into the line-up.

"We're a very young team, no doubt. However, we have brought in a lot of good talent including Mike Hurley, one of the top high school players in the province," he said. "We were playing .500 (7-7) ball heading into the break, but things should pick up in the new year," he said.

The women's volleyball team, coached by John Kwiatkowski, went into the Christmas break with a 2-4 record, but could easily have been 3-3 or 4-2, if it weren't for two, tough five-game losses.

"I think if you take into consideration our size, the overall competition and the five sports we play, this could be our best overall year," Rylander said. "I'm excited for the playoffs."

Fred Bassi first on the wall

Fred Bassi has been selected as the first inductee to the Student Centre Wall of Fame. The wall was created by the staff of the Student Centre and the executive members of the Student Administrative Council to recognize outstanding individual contributions to student life at Niagara College.

Each year, a member of the College community will be selected for membership on the wall. A photo and history of the inductee will be permanently affixed to the wall as a constant reminder of outstanding commitment to students.

Fred was selected as the first inductee in recognition of his many years at the College as teacher and coach and to convey appreciation from the many students whose lives he has influenced over those years.

Fred recently stepped down as head coach of the varsity hockey team but continues to be an influential force in Niagara College athletics and physical education, and remains a role model and friend to College students.

A ceremony took place in the Student Centre in December followed by light refreshments in After Hours. Student Centre Manager David Rapelje hosted the event which included Mr. Bassi and his many friends.

The Niagara College athletic department wants you . . . and you . . . and you . . .

Ray Sarkis, the new athletics technician, is doing everything he can

to fill the College gym and the arena for varsity games.

"I think we have an excellent product to offer, but I just don't feel very many people are aware of our teams," he said.

Mr. Sarkis, who started in athletics in August, has attained a wide variety of sponsorships from companies in the community and attendance at home games has increased.

"At half-time or in between periods of our home games we have all sorts of free prizes for the people in attendance," he said. "Not only are they seeing a great game, they have an opportunity to go home with something."

Fans have already left the games with free-t-shirts, video rentals, baseball hats, subs, pizzas, among many other prizes.

Mr. Sarkis' work hasn't gone unnoticed.

"Attendance at all of our games has certainly increased," said Peter Rylander, co-ordinator of athletics. "We had about 120 people at our last basketball game, that certainly is an excellent start."

Mr. Sarkis has also began an advertising campaign for home games and has given out passes at various elementary schools.

"Admission is free and anyone, including alumni, really should come and see our teams play," he said.

The men's and women's basketball and volleyball teams play their home games at the College gym in the Mackenzie Building, Welland Campus, while the hockey team plays its home games at the Welland Arena on King Street.

Touch Football team captures another gold

Repeat.

Back-to-back.

Two-in-a-row.

Just a few clichés that can be used to describe what the Niagara College touch football team accomplished in October.

The touch football team capped off it's second straight undefeated season by winning the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) gold medal at Lambton College in Sarnia.

Niagara won the gold with a 25-14 win over Mohawk College in the final.

"They gave us quite a scare when they took that 14-13 lead in the third quarter," said coach Randy Conlon. "But the defence tightened the screws and the offence got it going in time for us to pull out the win."

Niagara advanced to the final round with a 37-0 win over George Brown College and a 28-8 win over St. Lawrence College.

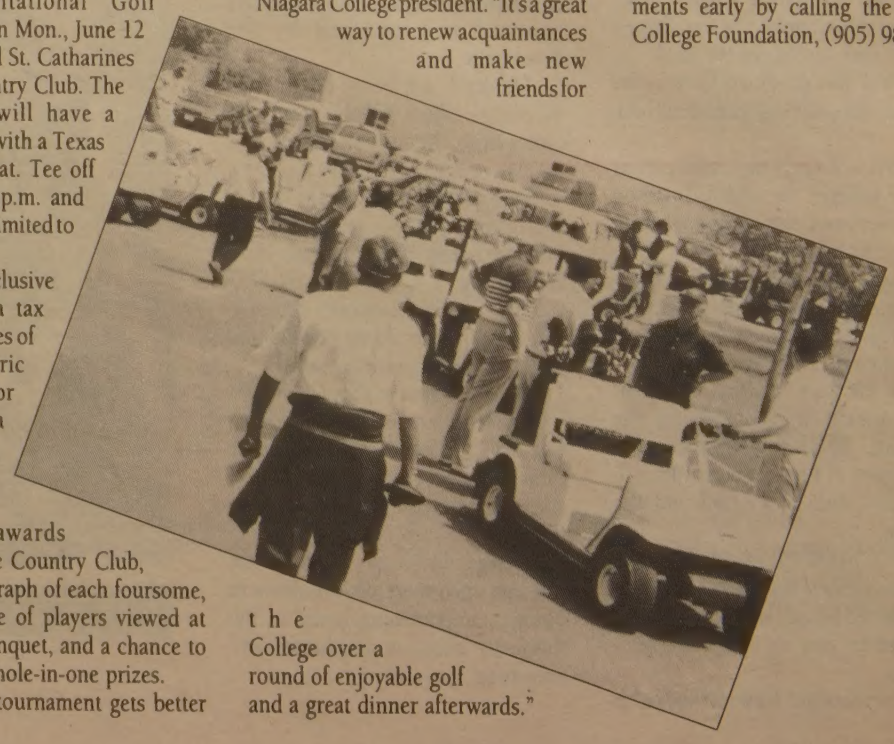
Prior to Niagara's first gold in 1993, Mohawk College had won 12 of the 14 previous titles.

Annual Invitational Golf Tournament in June

The Niagara College Foundation presents the Fifth Annual Niagara College Invitational Golf Tournament on Mon., June 12 at the beautiful St. Catharines Golf and Country Club. The tournament will have a Shotgun start with a Texas scramble format. Tee off time is 12:30 p.m. and registration is limited to 144 golfers.

The all inclusive fee includes a tax receipt, 18 holes of golf, an electric cart, prizes for every golfer, a light lunch, locker room privileges, a gourmet awards banquet at the Country Club, colour photograph of each foursome, video coverage of players viewed at the awards banquet, and a chance to win fabulous hole-in-one prizes.

"The golf tournament gets better each year and we are expecting another sellout this year," said John Saso, Niagara College president. "It's a great way to renew acquaintances and make new friends for the College over a round of enjoyable golf and a great dinner afterwards."

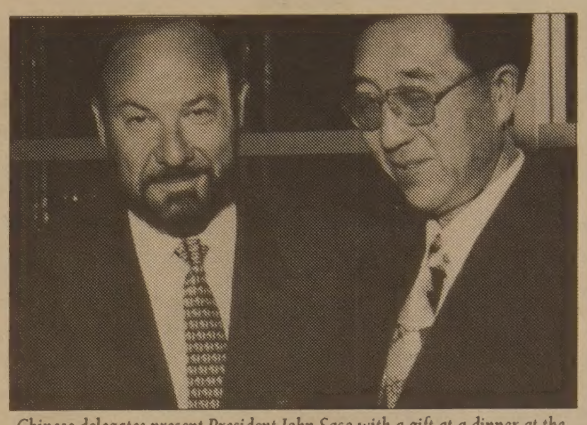


To register or for more information, please make arrangements early by calling the Niagara College Foundation, (905) 988-5211.

Niagara College goes global

As far as George Repar, director of International and Joint Ventures, is concerned, Niagara College is a school without borders. With International Education newly added to his portfolio, he sees the international community as new frontiers for the College to explore.

"While our focus is to greatly increase enrollment levels of international students in various programs, we are also working to form partnerships with international agencies and companies. These partnerships could have trainees studying here for short periods of time in customized training sessions or enrolled in post-secondary or post-diploma programs," he said.



Chinese delegates present President John Saso with a gift at a dinner at the Hospitality and Tourism Centre.

Mr. Repar is aware that in the Niagara Region, College staff do not have a monopoly on the kind of skills and expertise which are needed in other countries. "I want to involve College staff and community members in the process by recruiting and training people with the expertise we need to be our envoys and ambassadors abroad." Their duties will be to represent Niagara College to various businesses and institutions and to convince them to partner with the college to fill their training needs.

International and Joint Ventures will advertise these positions when ready to begin hiring. One of the most important aspects of this project, according to Mr. Repar, is the inclusion of both College staff and community members. "We want our own College community and the community at large to be part of our success in our international operations."

Of course, Niagara College already has a high profile abroad. In the past 10 years, 17 College staff members have offered institutions in China various forms of co-operative and technical assistance. Hans van der Slagt, College vice-president of Administration, helped establish the Chinese Management Training Centre. The provinces of Hunan, Jiangsu and Sichuan have all benefited from the College's expertise. About 30 middle managers from the China National Nonferrous Metals Corporation in Beijing will travel to Canada next summer for training in North American business practices, including advanced financial management, joint venture partnering and corporate restructuring. That training will be provided by Niagara College.

The Deahan Nursing Institute of Korea will be sending its graduates from what is equivalent to Canada's Practical Nursing program to Niagara College where they will receive full Registered Nurses training. After completing the program here, the student will return to Korea and better job opportunities. "It is widely recognized that international training, experience and education greatly enhance career opportunities in their own country," said Mr. Repar.

Niagara College is also part of a group of Ontario colleges offering hospitality and tourism expertise to technical training institutes in Hungary. It involves staff exchanges and technology transfers between Ontario and regions of Hungary.

The Centre of Environmental Training at Niagara College is also joining the international community. It was recently invited to prepare a proposal for environmental training for trade institutes in Mexico, proof, according to Mr. Repar, "that this is an area where Canada is recognized as having expertise." A proposal is in the works which would have Niagara providing English as a Second Language courses for the Banking Institute of the United Arab Emirates.

"We want to continue to promote our College in the international arena," said Mr. Repar. And if he has his way, our entire region will become part of the global village.

Nursing students assist at accident scene

Ontario Provincial Police were dispatched to an accident scene in November involving three motor vehicles and a tractor trailer. Drivers of two of the vehicles required hospital treatment for injuries, shock, possible whiplash, and lower back pain. A five-month-old passenger was also taken to hospital and examined for possible injuries.

Christine Norton and Fran Ledwon third-year Niagara College Nursing students stopped and assisted Constable Allen Lee for 20 minutes treating victims for shock and injuries. They helped keep the casualties comfortable and calm until the ambulance arrived.

Ms. Norton and Ms. Ledwon remained to assist the ambulance crew with on-the-scene aid and care.

A letter was received by Niagara College from OPP Senior Constable Stan Feeney thanking the students for their assistance. He also stated that their professionalism was an excellent reflection on the Niagara College Nursing program.

Greetings from the President

Dear members of the Alumni:

It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to extend greetings and best wishes through ALUMNIAGARA to all former students and friends of Niagara. We hope you enjoy this edition of your newsletter and it helps keep you informed about fellow alumni and the College.

As is evident in this edition, Niagara is embarking on some exciting new developments which will help the College meet the many education and training challenges as we move into the next century.

We are proud of Niagara's accomplishments over the last quarter century. You and the staff are largely responsible for having established the reputation for quality that Niagara achieved over that time period. As a former student, you are the most visible demonstration of that quality in the wider community and workplace settings. We value your continuing association with the College.

Reminders of Alumni contributions are found almost everywhere. To mention just a few of these, we meet former students who are employees of the College and a wide variety of other organizations, recruiters, and, indeed, parents of current students. Many alumni have served on the Board of Governors at the College and one of your number has even been the Chair of the Board.

Our Alumni is the largest single unit of the Niagara College Family. We hope all of you will make every effort to remain in close contact with your Alumni Association and the College for many years to come. We want and need your advice and support. Please complete and return our invitation to participate by submitting your ideas through the 'If I were President' form provided for your use.

If you haven't done so recently, we invite you to visit the College and meet with some of your former professors and other staff. You will then be able to learn first hand about some of the new developments underway at all campus locations.

In closing, on behalf of all staff at your Alma Mater, we wish you every success and continued prosperity in the years to come. With your help, Niagara will continue to meet the challenges of serving the learning needs of those who will lead us in the next century.

Sincerely yours,

John Saso, President.

If I were President, I would...

As you know, a College President needs a lot of advice in order to help our College to continually move forward. In addition, new ideas on how to make things even better for our students are always appreciated. Therefore, if you have suggestions on how to serve our students better, make things run smoother or just some comments on what improvements you would make if you were the President of Niagara, please jot them down in the space provided and forward them to the President's Office. I promise that all suggestions will be read and given consideration and that you will receive a response. No idea will be considered insignificant if it will improve the Niagara College environment in any way.

If I were President, I would

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Portrait of a young film-maker

by Sean Condon, St. Catharines Standard, reprinted with permission

There's no doubt Paul Gardner has talent—*The Absolution*, a movie he directed at Niagara College, beat out 13 other entries to win a major award from TVOntario. But can the film apprentice make the jump to the big leagues?

Four people, who not so long ago were strangers, share an east-end house with Paul Gardner. Home is a territorial madhouse enforced by economics.

Gardner doesn't bother with such granted luxuries as a phone. He keeps a beeper hooked to his belt, in case anyone tries to get a hold of him while he's on the go—which he is, most of the time.

Resourceful and running, Gardner, believe it or not, is an acclaimed film director, swallowed up by the big city, the former St. Catharines resident is discovering what it's like to look up at a promising future.

"There's nothing romantic about directing a movie," he said, eating lunch on a break between beeper calls and a scriptwriting session at the Yonge-Eglinton apartment of one of his old high school friends.

As if to prove the lack of glamour, Gardner has travelled a relatively inglorious route since graduating from Niagara College this past year. He won an apprenticeship (one of just 12 in the country) from the Canadian Academy of Cinema and Television and went to work on *Billy Madison*, the big-budget Adam Sandler movie that was shooting in Toronto. Three weeks later, he left *Billy Madison* to work on another project: the return of international kiddy fave Hammy hamster.

"I learned more on that than this big feature," Gardner said.

"I did a bit of directing," he explained, holding out his left hand, palm up: "also holding hamsters—and having them shit in your hand, as well."

Hammy may not be the glittery high road to the big time, but it's experience in an industry that, despite all these tags of Canada being some kind of Hollywood North, isn't really the employment that everyone is led to believe.

Gardner has already proved he has the talent to hack it. *The Absolution*, one of two half-hour films he wrote and directed at Niagara College, beat out 13 other college and university film entries to win the award for best long drama at this year's TVOntario provincial Telefest competition.

The Telefest awards ceremony was broadcast on TVO in November.

Cleverly concocted, *The Absolution* is an extreme in Catholic-boy guilt trips. An average, hard-working family man finds himself under the thumb of crimelords who want to collect on old debts. They send the poor guy off to kill a priest; the assassin tries to solve his moral dilemma in the priest's confession box.

Shot in several locations to provide the illusion of a metropolis, *The Absolution* is remarkable for its careful craft as much as its story. Gardner knows the economy of time and conversation, and grit shows through in the contrasting light and shadows of the film's most claustrophobic scenes, when trouble closes in.

"There's not always a deep-felt meaning about every shot," said Gardner, who calls himself "a meat and potatoes guy"—which comes through in his this-isn't-art-for-art's-sake-films. "You just shoot it—especially when you're being told you don't have a lot of time."

Gardner shot whenever and wherever the mood (not to mention the skimpy budget of a student film) would take him. With no filming permit, he would hop out of a car in Toronto and start shooting. For bar-room scenes in *The Absolution*, he used Jerry's Alley, the burned out club at the base of the Russell Hotel in St. Catharines, and stuck former Falls barrel stunter Peter DiBernardi behind the bar. The place turned out looking seedy, as usual, but it was a perfect, beautiful kind of seedy.

Another of Gardner's Niagara College films, *Greyhounds*—a half-hour documentary he directed purely out of necessity, when the first student director dropped out—pushed him to the limits. Twice, he and a college crew sat in the winter freeze at the border, waiting for trucks of racing dogs to cross. Then, at night he had a lighting problem; he held a spotlight himself, shone it in the direction of the camera and just hoped that it would all work out.

And then there was money. The $9,000 film, about the treatment of racing dogs between track appearances, required a trip to Florida to gather footage at tracks and talk to humane society officials. The film-maker's business mind took over.

"Yes," he chuckled, recalling the ingenuity that got the job done. "My teacher told me 'I don't think I've seen anybody raise money the way you've done it.' I had collection boxes. I sent out letters to hundreds of people."

"There were some people who were extremely giving. We managed to raise enough to get down to Florida. I had a friend who managed to snag a condo from his aunt."

Two cars and a crew of five went down. Through a hectic week of cross-state drives and equipment failure, Gardner got what he wanted.

This life, tedious and devious as it can often be, is what he has desired since he was a teenager. But, at the end of the '70's, any small-town Canadian kid who grew up like Gardner, dreaming of working for director George Lucas's effects team at Industrial Light and Magic, soon figured that it was an impossible career choice.

Once the family settled in St. Catharines—after job transfers of his father, initially a draughtsman, took young Paul from his native Scotland to New Jersey and Montreal and back again—Gardner persevered with his own home industry anyway. Shooting began in the afternoons and weekends after finishing up classes at Denis Morris High School.

"There was no film program," he recalled. "I'm 26 now. I used to make films when I was 14, and set my mom's basement on fire...We used to do the Star Wars films. We had spaceships hanging on fishing line."

After high school, though, Gardner chose the police.

He graduated from Niagara's law and security program and spent 16 months as a civilian employee of the Niagara Regional Police. All along, he wondered why he was there.

"I had seen what a lot of the police officers do," he said, "but I realized it wasn't for me. Too fearful."

Caught in another career toss-up, between film and animation, Gardner went to his first love, ("I consider myself a fair artist," he says now of the decision to ditch animation, "but I didn't think I would have the patience.") *The Absolution*, fruit of his new learning, quickly confirmed his instincts by beating out university entries and works from such perennial winning schools as Ryerson to take the Telefest prize.

Called to the big city by necessity—satellite film industries don't set up in the middle of nowhere—he has been seeking out the usual productions-assistant jobs that newcomers take to keep the resume rolling while honing his craft. Gardner seems to delight in getting people to confront the environments and beliefs; he and high school friend Russ Robertson, who trained at Mohawk College in Hamilton, are ironing out a feature-length script on growing up as a border kid in the Niagara Region.

A half-hour script Gardner is currently pitching to the CBC is much knottier. In this script, word gets out that a convicted pedophile, released from prison, is moving into a particular apartment. The apartment next door is occupied by a young father who has previously kept a liberal mind about such events. The film deals as much with the neighbor's thoughts as those of the pedophile.

"I'm trying to show some depth to him, more than 'This guy is just an animal," said Gardner, who conducted some of his research by interviewing pedophiles. "I'm trying to show his environment. John Smith did that in The Boys of St. Vincent...

"People have only started to acknowledge it (the disease of pedophilia) in the last 20 years. I thought it would be fascinating to find out what would drive someone to do this. There's not such a black-and-white with this. It's a cycle. I've done my research. I've talked to a couple of people who were abused as children. The thing is, they don't know a child abuser who hasn't been abused...How do you stop this cycle?"

The film, when it is completed (with or without CBC backing), will be an important part of Gardner's climb up.

He doesn't want to get trapped in the potentially profitable routine of running around on other people's movies. He wants to concentrate on his own craft.

The only way he will get the chance and the budget to expand (*The Absolution*, at $7,000, and Greyhounds were bargains in the extreme) is by accumulating more of his own work.

"You can be the best director possible, but they don't know that yet," he said. "So, you have to pay your dues."

Gardner is prepared. He learned how arduous the director's job can be when he scouted locations for *The Absolution*.

"The end sequence where he (*The Absolution*'s cornered main character) was walking through the lobby," he said, "I ended up getting to Buffalo City Hall and I liked it. It took us three hours to light that area...

"One day," he added, "we had a 21-hour day shooting."

One of Gardner's actors spoke up during the lengthy wait.

"You guys really amaze me," Gardner recalled the actor saying. "On Divorce Court, we shoot this in an hour."

There's no doubt Paul Gardner has talent — *The Absolution*, a movie he directed at Niagara College, beat out 13 other entries to win a major award from TVOntario. But can the film apprentice make the jump to the big leagues?

Note: *Sean Condon is a graduate of Niagara College.*

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